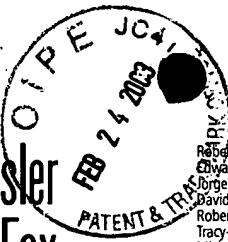




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February 25, 2003

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Art Unit: 1623

Examiner: Lewis, Patrick
Confirmation No.: 3882

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/920,286; Filed: August 2, 2001
For: **Process for the Production of Multiple Cross-Linked
Hyaluronic Acid Derivatives**
Inventor: Xiaobin ZHAO
Our Ref: 0623.1110001/LBB/MGP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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Commissioner for Patents
February 25, 2003
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

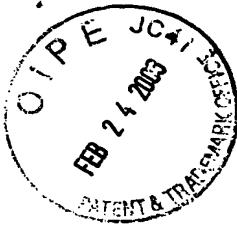
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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LBB/MGP/awt
Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:105484.1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Xiaobin ZHAO

Appl. No. 09/920,286

Filed: August 2, 2001

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Art Unit: 1623

Examiner: Lewis, Patrick

Atty. Docket: 0623.1110001/LBB/MGP

Amendment And Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

FEB 27 2003

Sir:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In reply to the Office Action dated November 25, 2002, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 10), Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) A clean version of each replacement paragraph/section/claim along with clear instructions for entry;
- (B) Starting on a separate page, appropriate remarks and arguments. 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 and MPEP 714; and
- (C) Starting on a separate page, a marked-up version entitled: "Version with markings to show changes made."

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned

Xiaobin ZHAO
Appl. No. 09/920,286

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.